

REMARKS

Prior to continued examination, new claim 17 is added, based upon such disclosure as that in claims 10 and 15 and in the specification on page 13 (buffer) and pages 14-15 (viscosity-inducing agent). No new subject matter is added to the application by this Amendment. Claims 2-12 and 15-17 are currently before the Examiner for reconsideration.

Applicants rely upon their Response filed June 30, 2010 for their position with respect to the prior art rejection of record. It is additionally noted that the combination of the Yaksh and Chen disclosures with the Thomas disclosure fails to teach or suggest a method for treating tear abnormality in a patient by administering an ophthalmological composition comprising (i.) 0.8 to 800 mmol/l 3-hydroxybutyric acid and/or salts thereof as an active ingredient, (ii.) a buffer in a concentration ranging from 0.001 to 5 w/v%, and (iii.) a viscosity inducing agent in a concentration ranging from 0.1 to 5 w/v% to the patient in an amount effective for treating the tear abnormality, wherein the ophthalmological composition is administered as one to three eye drops, one to twenty time per day, as recited in claim 17 hereinabove.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Vanessa Perez-Ramos, Reg. No. 61,158, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Dated: July 30, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By *Marc S. Weiner* (Reg. No. 32,181)Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant